

HONORING THE CONTINUED SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT LOGAN O'SHEA

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lieutenant Logan O'Shea, United States Navy, during his service as a legislative fellow in my Washington, DC office this year. Throughout 2022, Logan has played a critical role in supporting my work on the House Armed Services Committee and representing the proud Navy community in Eastern Connecticut.

As Chairman of the House Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, which has the solemn, critical duty of overseeing much of our nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and various Air Force programs and policies. Year in, and year out, the Department of Defense's legislative fellowship program brings highly talented junior officers to Capitol Hill that provide invaluable benefits to Members of the House and Senate to the defense committees. Officers, like Logan, bring real-world experience from their time in the classroom at the various academies and experiences from their time serving on active duty. This year, as our subcommittee once again considered our approach to critical shipbuilding programs, shipbuilding industrial base development, and Navy and Marine Corps readiness through the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, Logan provided exquisite judgement in navigating the landscape of crafting such a large and critical piece of legislation.

Logan has also seized initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs that benefit Eastern Connecticut. He worked tirelessly to provide insight in our Navy's planned shipbuilding programs, communicated with leadership at Naval Submarine New London to improve the quality of life on base, and drafted policy to examine how we can better improve the lives of our Navy civilian workers on various installations. He also served as the staff lead for the Friends of Australia Caucus and the AUKUS Working Group, both of which I serve as co-chair, ensuring that the ties between our countries remain as strong as ever. This is of special importance as our two nations continue to develop key priorities in support of the AUKUS security agreement to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific. Logan's work to coordinate with the Executive Branch, other Members of Congress, and the Australian and British Embassies has facilitated new partnerships in support of our shared principles. In particular, he participated in drafting H.R. 8073, a bill establishing a joint training pipeline between the U.S. Navy and the Royal Australian Navy to enable the AUKUS effort to create a nuclear-powered submarine force. This bill was later adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 NDAA.

Logan's work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and first-hand experience as a Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer made an immediate benefit and memorable impact on my office and subcommittee staff. After traveling across the world with tenures on the USS *Carney* (DDG 64) and USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68), I am thankful for his family's tremendous sacrifice to our nation and for landing in Washington for the cur-

rent phase of their life. Though Logan's presence will be deeply missed by both my personal staff and Seapower staff, I know full-well that he will make his presence known as he heads to the Surface Warfare Officer Department Head Course at Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island.

Madam Speaker, as has also been the case for each of his predecessors that my office has had the opportunity to host, I have benefited greatly from Logan's training and background. This recurring process that the fellowship program fosters, strengthens civilian-military understanding for future leaders of the greatest military in the world, which I believe is a necessary component of a strong democracy. Our nation is best served at sea and here onshore by officers and leaders of the highest caliber like Logan. He embodies such qualities and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our Nation, and we owe him such gratitude. To that end, I ask that the House join me in wishing LT Logan O'Shea, his spouse Megan, and their dog Murphy, the best of luck in their next life chapter, particularly as they welcome their first born into the world.

HONORING LEONARD PITTS, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, journalist, and novelist, Leonard Pitts, Jr. Mr. Pitts is the recipient of the 2022 5000 Role Models of Excellence Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom and Justice Award.

A native of Southern California, Pitts entered the University of Southern California at 15 through a special honors program and graduated summa cum laude with a degree in English at age 19.

Upon graduation, he worked as a freelance music reviewer for a broad range of publications. He wrote scripts for the award-winning documentary films *King: From Atlanta to the Mountaintop* (1986), *Who We Are* (1988), and *Young Black Men: A Lost Generation* (1990). He served as a staff writer for the music countdown show *American Top 40* and its legendary host, Casey Kasem, from 1989 to 1991. In 1991, he was hired as a music critic by the Miami Herald and began writing commentary in 1995.

He is perhaps best known for his twice-weekly syndicated columns that tackle the race, politics, and culture. He won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Commentary "for his fresh, vibrant columns that spoke, with both passion and compassion, to ordinary people on often divisive issues."

Other awards include first place for commentary in division four in the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors' Ninth Annual Writing Awards competition; three National Association of Black Journalists' Awards of Excellence; and NABJ's 2008 Journalist of the Year. He is a five-time recipient of the Atlantic City Press Club's National Headliners Award and a seven-time recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists' Green Eye-

shade Award. In 2001, he received the American Society of Newspaper Editors prestigious Award for Commentary Writing and was named Feature of the Year in the column writing division by Editor and Publisher magazine. In 2002, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists awarded Pitts its inaugural Columnist of the Year award; in 2016, it named him to its Hall of Fame. In 2002 and in 2009, GLAAD Media awarded Pitts the Outstanding Newspaper Columnist award. In 2017, he was awarded the Missouri Honor Medal and has received four honorary doctorates. The father of five is the author of four novels and has also written nonfiction books.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Leonard Pitts, Jr.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MURAT GOKCIGDEM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my longtime Chief of Staff, Mr. Murat Gokcigdem. He is leaving the Hill this month after 29 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Prior to coming to my office, Mr. Gokcigdem attended West Virginia University in Charleston, earning his bachelor's and his master's degree in International Public Policy. He then began his career as a Hill staffer working for Congressmen Jim Moody and Tom Barrett. He worked his way from Special Assistant to Legislative Director before joining my staff. He has since served in my Washington, DC office for over 21 years. He began as my Legislative Director in 2001 and quickly demonstrated a deep understanding of the legislative process and inner workings of Capitol Hill. His success in that role led me to promote him to Chief of Staff, where he has long advised me on all communications, legislative, and administrative issues and managed my DC and district office staff.

Murat has been a constant companion for those 21 years, probably more so than he ever imagined. I would not have made it this long in this job without his counsel. I call him at all hours of the day and night, make seemingly impossible requests, and rely on him in part for every aspect of my Congressional operation.

Murat has also served as a resource for Legislative Directors, Chiefs of Staff, and schedulers from all over the Hill, particularly for those serving the Congressional Black Caucus and the Texas delegation. They know that if they have a question, Murat has an answer.

Murat's presence in my office has greatly improved my capacity to serve the constituents of TX-30 and supported the professional development of those who have worked for me.

I want to thank him and his family, his wife Elin and his children Ela and Elif, for his service, his counsel, and most importantly, his friendship over the years.

RECOGNIZING RICARDO TORREZ
CASTAÑUELA

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the Citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2022 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Ricardo Torrez Castañuela, Master Sergeant, United States Air Force, of North Richland Hills, Texas for the honorable service he performed while in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Mr. Castañuela enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948 and served as part of an ordnance company during the Korean War, running munitions to the front lines. Upon returning to the United States he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954, being awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious actions while in Vietnam. His decorations, in addition to his Bronze Star, include the Korean Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster to denote three awards.

The selflessness Mr. Castañuela demonstrated in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force continues with his service to his community. He began his civilian career as a peace officer and corrections officer with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, attaining the rank of Major and becoming the first Hispanic-American Warden of Tarrant County.

Mr. Castañuela's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING MR. JOE SUTTON AND
MR. ROBERT MARLING

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Joe Sutton and Mr. Robert Marling, two long term friends who have emulated the important values of true friendship.

They will always cherish their friendly bets, usually paid in full in the form of 1 dollar bills, for their countless rounds of golf. And even more so, they will cherish the everlasting memories that they've formed together over the years.

Through their friendship, Robert and Joe are both found to be philanthropic spirited and humble individuals, stewards of their communities, and serve as role models for many.

Robert is smart, kindhearted, community-minded, and a great entrepreneur and mentor. He has been a major supporter of the American Heart Association, United Way, and dozens of other major charities.

Joe proudly served in the U.S. Army and retired at the rank of Colonel. During his time in the Army, he held numerous command assignments in armor and aviation, served 2

tours of duty in the Pentagon and was an Army Ranger. Joe authored a children's book and has donated the proceeds from the book to "Children at Risk" focused on fighting child trafficking. It is my sincerest hope that their friendship continues to be a role model for others to see and learn from. In the world we find ourselves living in today, I can think of nothing better than to celebrate friends that truly last a lifetime.

PROVIDING RESEARCH AND ESTIMATES OF CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Budget, Judiciary, and on Homeland Security, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437 "Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023", a resolution that provides funding to continue the operations of the federal government through December 23, 2022, and avoids a wasteful and irresponsible shutdown.

Passage of this resolution will avoid an inexcusable and unjustifiable government shutdown that would disrupt the lives of millions of Americans who rely on the resources and support provided by the federal government.

If this resolution does not pass:

Millions of veterans will lose their healthcare benefits.

People relying on Social Security will not receive their checks.

Millions of government employees will lose their wages.

Millions of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries would lose access to visits and other medical needs.

Food Stamps will not be sent out, leaving millions of Americans who rely on them at risk of hunger.

Health insurance coverage to millions of children through the CHIP program will stop.

All projects created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will pause, and national parks and Smithsonian museums will close.

In addition to these programs, House Democrats have worked tirelessly throughout the 117th Congress to pass legislation that will better the lives of Americans, legislation that has established programs that would also be impacted by a government shutdown.

Our legislative agenda this Congress focused on lowering the price of health care and prescription drug costs, creating better paying jobs, acting on the climate crisis and making communities safer.

For example, in this Congress the House has passed and sent to the President the following legislation that has been signed into law:

H.R. 5376—INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

This historic piece of legislation lowered health care and prescription drug costs for millions. It forces Big Pharma to negotiate lower prices, caps the cost of drugs and insulin for seniors on Medicare, and locks in lower health insurance premiums that will save 13 million Americans an average of \$800 a year. And

the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy provisions will make clean, secure American energy more affordable.

H.R. 1319—AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

This law helped pull the economy out of the pandemic. It put vaccines in arms, money in pockets, and reopened the American economy.

H.R. 3684—INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

This law enacted a historic investment to rebuild our roads and bridges and bring clean water and high-speed internet to more communities and created millions of union jobs.

S. 2938—BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

The enactment of this bill expands background checks for the purchase of firearms, add increased protections for victims of domestic violence, and fund violence prevention in schools and stronger mental health services to stop tragedies like mass shootings before they happen.

House Democrats have also made strides to bettering American life through legislation that has yet to see action in the Senate. These include:

H.R. 1, FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

This comprehensive legislation would promote government transparency, strengthen access to the ballot box and make it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote, secure election infrastructure, and curb the influence of dark money in politics.

H.R. 6, DREAM AND PROMISE ACT

The Dream and Promise Act would protect Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) status holders from deportation and provide an opportunity to obtain permanent legal status that would enable these groups to work legally within the United States and continue to contribute to their local communities and economy.

H.R. 7, PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

This bill would strengthen labor protections around equal pay by prohibiting the use of salary history to set compensation, provide more transparent options for joining class-action lawsuits challenging systemic discrimination, and require employers to show that gender pay gaps are job-related and consistent with business need.

H.R. 842, PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE (PRO) ACT

This bill aims to strengthen labor protections for union workers through overriding Republican-led "right to work" laws, promoting free and fair union elections, and holding companies that attempt to restrict union activity accountable.

Mr. Speaker, with your leadership, House Democrats have passed historic pieces of legislation that will benefit Americans for years to come, but our work is not done.

If we fail to pass this Resolution, the new programs that we have enacted into law during the 117th Congress, as well as all the other services and programs of the federal government will be shut down and American people in every corner of the country will suffer needlessly and severely.

As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to ensure that the government continues its operations so that Americans may continue to receive the resources services provided by the federal government passed December 16, 2022.